

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for identifying, categorizing, and sharing web site links over a communications network via a web key tool, comprising:

receiving a request at a first user client system to incorporate information relating to a web site into the web key tool, wherein the request includes a link to the web site;

launching the web key tool at a second user client system in response to the second user client system receiving the request from the first user client system;

selecting an option on a menu screen's list of options provided by the web key tool, wherein the option relates to the request to incorporate the information;

associating the information and the link with a category;

transmitting the information and the link to a central storage location associated with the web key tool;

processing the information and the link, the processing determining whether or not the information and the link are approved for storage in the central storage location, the processing including:

checking to ensure that the information and the link are complete;

checking to ensure that the information and the link are not a duplicate of information submitted by authorized system users; and

verifying that a user at the first user client system is authorized to submit the request;

and, if the information and the link are approved as determined by the processing, then saving the approved information and the approved link in said central storage location; updating

related database files with respect to the approved information and the approved link; and providing authorized system users with access to the approved information and the approved link in the central storage location via an input option at the first user client system; and

if approval is not granted, the user either aborts the process or returns to the category selection option and ~~repeat~~ repeats the selection process.

2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the link to the web site includes:

a universal resource locator for the web site;

a web address of the web site; and

a hypertext transfer protocol link;

and the information relating to the web site includes a description of the web site.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said associating said information with a category includes:

selecting a category from a list of pre-established categories provided by said web key tool; and

creating a new category where no suitable category from said list of categories is found.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said approved information is accessible to said authorized system users via a web page.

5. (Currently Amended) A storage medium encoded with machine-readable program code for identifying, categorizing, and sharing web site links over a communications network via a web key tool, the storage medium including instructions for causing said a computer to implement a method, comprising:

receiving a request at a first user client system to incorporate information relating to a web site into the web key tool, wherein the request includes a link to the web site;

launching the web key tool at a second user client system in response to the second user client system receiving the request from the first user client system;

selecting an option on a menu screen's list of options provided by the web key tool, wherein the option relates to the request to incorporate the information;

associating the information and the link with a category;

transmitting the information and the link to a central storage location associated with the web key tool;

processing the information and the link, the processing determining whether or not the information and the link are approved for storage in the central storage location, the processing including:

checking to ensure that the information and the link are complete;

checking to ensure that the information and the link are not a duplicate of information submitted by authorized system users; and

verifying that a user at the first user client system is authorized to submit the request;

and, if the information and the link are approved as determined by the processing, then saving the approved information and the approved link in said central storage location; updating related database files with respect to the approved information and the approved link; and providing authorized system users with access to the approved information and the approved link in the central storage location via an input option at the first user client system; and

if approval is not granted, the user either aborts the process or returns to the category selection option and ~~repeat~~ repeats the selection process.

6. (Previously presented) The storage medium of claim 5, wherein the link to the web site includes:

a universal resource locator for the web site;

a web address of the web site; and

a hypertext transfer protocol link;

and the information relating to the web site includes a description of the web site.

7. (Original) The storage medium of claim 5, wherein said associating said information with a category includes:

selecting a category from a list of pre-established categories provided by said web key tool; and

creating a new category where no suitable category from said list of categories is found.

8. (Original) The storage medium of claim 5, wherein said approved information is accessible to said authorized system users via a web page.

9. (Currently Amended) A system for identifying, categorizing, and sharing web site links over a communications network via a web key tool, comprising:

an organization, comprising:

a first user client system capable of receiving a request for incorporating information relating to a web site into the web key tool, wherein the request includes a link to the web site;

a data storage device for providing a centralized storage location for said link;

a second user client system for controlling access to said data storage device and managing operations provided by said web key tool;

a network link for allowing said first user client system, said second user client system, and said data storage device to communicate with each other; and

wherein the web key tool is launched at the second user client system in response to the second user client system receiving a request for incorporating information relating to the web site from the first user client system, the web key tool performing:

associating said information and said link with a category;

transmitting said information and said link to the central storage location;

processing the information and the link, the processing determining whether or not the information and the link are approved for storage in the central storage location, the processing including:

checking to ensure that the information and the link are complete;

checking to ensure that the information and the link are not a duplicate of information submitted by authorized system users; and

verifying that a user at the client system is authorized to submit the request; and, if the information and the link are approved as determined by the processing, then saving the approved information and the approved link in said central storage location; updating related database files with respect to the approved information and the approved link; and providing authorized system users with access to said approved information and the approved link in the central storage location via an input option at the first user client system; and

if approval is not granted, the user either aborts the process or returns to the category selection option and ~~repeat~~ repeats the selection process.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously presented) The system of claim 9, wherein said first user client system is executing a web browser software program.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said associating said information with a category further comprises at least one of:

importing said web link from a currently active web site associated with said web link;
and

manually entering a uniform resource locator for the link and a brief description.

14. (Previously presented) The storage medium of claim 5, wherein said associating said information with a category further comprises at least one of:

importing said web link from a currently active web site associated with said web link;
and

manually entering a uniform resource locator for the link and a brief description.